

SCENE 43 • GRAMMAR

Nejdřív a potom

Putting a past story in order

6 Exercises • Duration: 20 min.

The festival

Czech

Read & listen online



Putting a past story in order

Use **nejdřív**, **potom**, **pak**, **nakonec** to keep a story easy to follow. The participle agrees with its subject: **koncert začal**, **světla zhasla**, **něco spadlo**. **Světla** is neuter plural, so its past participle ends in **-la**.

Past motion has useful irregular forms: **šel/šla** for going on foot, **jel/jela** for going by vehicle. Digital time phrases such as **ve dvacet čtrnáct** make a report clear.

Czech	Meaning
Koncert začal v osm.	The concert started at eight.
Světla zhasla.	The lights went out.
Něco spadlo.	Something fell.
Potom jsem šel domů.	Then I went home on foot.

Koncert začal v osm.

The concert started at eight.

Světla zhasla.

The lights went out.

Něco spadlo.

Something fell.

Potom jsem šla (šel) domů.

Then I went home on foot.

GRAMMAR

G1) NOTICE THE USEFUL PATTERN

Underline the form practised in this unit.

- 1 Koncert začal v osm.

Meaning: The concert started at eight.

- 2 Světla zhasla.

Meaning: The lights went out.

- 3 Něco spadlo.

Meaning: Something fell.

- 4 Potom jsem šla domů.

Meaning: Then I went home on foot.

G2) CHOOSE THE FORM

Use the English meaning and the pattern in this unit.

1 Koncert _____ v osm.

- ☐ A začalo
- ☐ B začal
- ☐ C začala

Meaning: The concert started at eight.

2 Světla _____.

- ☐ A zhasly
- ☐ B zhasla
- ☐ C zhasl

Meaning: The lights went out.

3 Něco _____.

- ☐ A spadla
- ☐ B spadlo
- ☐ C spadl

Meaning: Something fell.

4 Potom jsem _____ domů.

- ☐ A šli
- ☐ B šla
- ☐ C šly

Meaning: Then I went home on foot.

G3) COMPLETE THE MESSAGES

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

začal začala

Koncert _____ v osm.

Meaning: The concert started at eight.

zhasla zhasl

Světla _____.

Meaning: The lights went out.

spadlo spadl

Něco _____.

Meaning: Something fell.

šla šli

Potom jsem _____ domů.

Meaning: Then I went home on foot.

G4) BUILD A SENTENCE

Put the words in order.

1

osm.

v

Koncert

začal

Meaning: The concert started at eight.

- 2 Potom zhasla. světla

Meaning: Then the lights went out.

- 3 Potom něco spadlo.

Meaning: Then something fell.

- 4 jsem domů. Potom šla

Meaning: Then I went home on foot.

G5) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Choose the right words for the situation.

- 1 The concert started at eight. You say:

- (A) Koncert začala v osm.
(B) Koncert začal v osm.

2 The lights went out. You say:

- ☐ A Světla zhasla.
- ☐ B Světla zhasl.

3 Something fell. You say:

- ☐ A Něco spadlo.
- ☐ B Něco spadl.

4 Then I went home on foot. You say:

- ☐ A Potom jsem šla domů.
- ☐ B Potom jsem šli domů.

G6) CONNECT MESSAGES AND MEANINGS

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ 1 Potom jsem šla domů. | ☐ A Then I went home on foot. |
| ☐ 2 Něco spadlo. | ☐ B The concert started at eight. |
| ☐ 3 Světla zhasla. | ☐ C Something fell. |

- ④ Koncert začal v
osm.
- ④ The lights went out.